

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /158 W

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R 281713Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4004

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 20606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LIKE-MINDED MEETING - JUNE 26-27

REF: PARIS 20479

1. SUMMARY: AFTER SINGLE MORNING SESSION ON RESULTS OF GENEVA LOS SEVENTH SESSION AND PLANS FOR NEW YORK RESUMPTION (REFTEL), LIKE-MINDED MEETING CONVENED BY FRENCH IN PARIS JUNE 26-27 TURNED TO SEABED MINING LEGISLATION. TWO SESSIONS DEALT WITH (A) US LEGISLATION AND (B) STATUS OF LEGISLATION OR RELATED PLANNING IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

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2. FOLLOWING EXPOSITION ON US LEGISLATIVE SITUATION, BERLIND AND HOYLE FIELDDED THREE HOURS OF QUESTIONS FROM OTHERS, REFLECTING GREATEST CONCERN OVER RECIPROCATING STATE PROVISIONS AND NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION AMONG LIKE-MINDED, INCLUDING CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM AND POSSIBILITY OF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT AMONG STATES HAVING SEABED MINING LEGISLATION. US EXPRESSED VIEW

THAT LIKE-MINDED GROUP PROVIDED SUFFICIENT COORDINATION, THAT US WOULD ENTERTAIN SUGGESTIONS FROM OTHERS WITH RESPECT TO CONTENT OF US LEGISLATION, BUT THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO INTRODUCE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 12988. AT FRENCH SUGGESTION, ALL AGREED TO DRAW UP AND EXCHANGE LISTS OF CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION OF RECIPROCATING STATES AND TO GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO NEED FOR MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT AMONG INTERESTED STATES.

3. OTHER COUNTRIES GAVE STATUS REPORTS ON LEGISLATION AS FOLLOWS:

- (A) FRG GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF INTRODUCING LEGISLATION, BUT A RECENTLY CREATED INTER-FACTIONAL COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN EARLY SEPTEMBER TO EXAMINE A DRAFT BILL PREPARED BY OPPOSITION PARTIES.
- (B) UK GOVERNMENT HAS AUTHORIZED WORK ON DRAFT LEGISLATION, BUT LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE BEYOND DRAWING UP OF PRINCIPLES. BILL COULD BE INTRODUCED AT NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT (NOVEMBER).
- (C) FRANCE HAS PREPARED RATHER DETAILED "PROVISIONAL PRE-DRAFT" AT ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL AND, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT NOT YET INVOLVED, BILL COULD GO TO NEXT PARLIAMENT.
- (D) NETHERLANDS HAS BEGUN WORK AT ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL ON LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES, WITH CONTINENTAL SHELF LAW THE MODEL.

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- (E) ITALY IS LEANING TOWARD VIEW THAT LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MULTILATERAL ARRANGEMENT.
- (F) JAPAN IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM INDUSTRY, AND GOVERNMENT PARTY IS SHOWING INCREASING INTEREST, BUT NO BILL HAS BEEN PREPARED.
- (G) BELGIUM, UNDER MFA INSTRUCTIONS OF MARCH 21, IS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 20606

DRAFTING BILL BASED ON SHELF LAW AND US LEGISLA-
TION. EARLIEST SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT WOULD BE
1979.

(H) CANADA IS DOING NOTHING.

4. SEVERAL HINGED TIMING ON RESULTS OF SEVENTH SESSION
AND PROGRESS OF US LEGISLATION. BRITISH AND FRENCH
PUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFOR-
MATION IMPARTED TO LIKE-MINDED GROUP.

5. LIKE-MINDED AGREED TO MEET EARLY DURING NEW YORK
SESSION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION.
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6. COMMENT: OTHERS ARE FINALLY BECOMING CONVINCED THAT
US LEGISLATION WILL BE PASSED, LEAVING THEM AT A DIS-
ADVANTAGE, BUT THEY STILL FEAR GETTING OUT FRONT. THEY
ARE CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT CRITERIA FOR RECIPROCITY
(E.G., THE UK DOES NOT PLAN TO INCLUDE A REVENUE-
SHARING FUND IN ITS LEGISLATION). WE SUSPECT THAT
SOME STATES HAVE GONE FURTHER WITH PREPARATION OF
LEGISLATION THAN THEY REVEALED AT THE MEETING. HOYLE
PREPARING DETAILED ACCOUNT OF DISCUSSION FOR DIS-
TRIBUTION IN WASHINGTON AND TO POSTS.
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